

VZCZCXRO8696
OO RUEH DU RUEHMR RUEHRN
DE RUEHSB #0249 0910829
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 310829Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY HARARE
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2651
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY
RUEHAR/AMEMBASSY ACCRA 1856
RUEHDS/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 1980
RUEHRL/AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0553
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1257
RUEHDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 1614
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 2036
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 4467
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLESWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
RHMFISS/EUCOM POLAD VAIHINGEN GE
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1107
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L HARARE 000249

SIPDIS

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AF/S FOR S. HILL
ADDIS ABABA FOR USAU
ADDIS ABABA FOR ACSS
STATE PASS TO USAID FOR E. LOKEN AND L. DOBBINS
STATE PASS TO NSC FOR SENIOR AFRICA DIRECTOR B. PITTMAN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/31/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [ASEC](#) [ZI](#)
SUBJECT: HARARE CALM, RUNOFF LIKELY

REF: HARARE 247 AND PREVIOUS

Classified By: Ambassador James D. McGee for reason 1.4 (d)

¶1. (C) Two separate sources have told us that President Robert Mugabe, who appeared ready to have himself declared the victor yesterday, backed off in the face of large support for MDC candidate Morgan Tsvangirai and pressure from the military and within his party. It now appears that the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) will announce that Tsvangirai has won slightly less than 50 percent of the vote

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and that Mugabe has won slightly over 40 percent. This would result in a runoff to be held within 21 days. Our sources also believe that the ZEC will announce that ZANU-PF has won most of the parliamentary seats, but will be a minority with candidates allied to Tsvangirai and Simba Makoni gaining the majority share of seats.

¶2. (U) At about 6:30 am, the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation began coverage of the ZEC announcing the results of House of Assembly races. Six results were announced; the MDC won four and ZANU-PF won two. Coverage then stopped; we do not know when it will recommence.

COMMENT

¶3. (C) Harare and the rest of Zimbabwe appear calm. While the result predicted by our sources is obviously rigged, it should diffuse tensions that built up yesterday when it appeared that Mugabe would steal an outright victory. We will continue to monitor the vote as it comes in today. END COMMENT.
MCGEE